

### Remarks

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to remove the potential for ambiguity perceived by the Examiner to exist.

All claims stand rejected as having been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art over Lunday United States patent No. 3,061,969. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is predicated upon a failure to fully appreciate the significance of important features of the claimed invention, and reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner has acknowledged (page 4, line 10) that Lunday fails to teach that the arms 10 and 12 project inwardly. It is to be noted that the angular disposition and the inward projection of the arms on the elongate member are expressly designated to be characterizing features of the invention, as originally claimed. Clearly however, the significance and advantages of this essential feature were not evident to the Examiner, and consequently Applicant provides the following further explanation:

The general objectives of the invention to provide an improved device for facilitating the reading of a book, which device is easy to operate and can firmly hold books of varying sizes without risk of damaging the book (see page 2 of the specification). The second paragraph on page 5 describes the attainment of those objectives.

When a book is opened, the opposite side edges of the pages become raked, as shown in Figure 2. A relatively thin paperback book is depicted, but it will be appreciated that, in the case of a thick book, the spine generally tends to be less flexible and the rake angle, relative to the closed position, becomes even greater. By mounting the clamping end pieces 101 and 102 on standoff arms 10 and 12, which are inwardly inclined toward

one another, it is possible to maintain a firm grip on the pages irrespective of whether a small number of pages are held, as in Figure 6, or a much greater number of pages are held, as in Figure 7.

To illustrate this more fully, the appended drawing shows a direct comparison between the book holder of Lunday and the presently claimed device. It is to be noted how the device of the prior art completely fails to grip the pages of a relatively thick book, even though the edges of the pages are inclined at a relatively steep angle relative to the cover.

It should also be noted that, if a book were not held adequately by the end clamps provided there would be a tendency for the reader to flatten the book in an attempt to reduce the rake of the pages. It is well known that such distortion often results in serious damage to the book in the region of the spine.

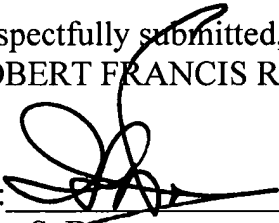
There are moreover additional advantages that arise from utilization of the angularly inclined, inwardly projecting upstanding arms 10 and 12 of which Applicant's device is comprised. For example, the distance by which the lever portions 32 project beyond the edges of the book is reduced, thereby producing a device that is more compact than would otherwise be the case, as well as being easier to manipulate. It has also been found that, as a result of the claimed arrangement, an adequate level of holding pressure is applied to the pages of the book throughout the full range of paper thicknesses that can be held by the clamping pieces.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the instant application define an invention that is novel and nonobvious over the prior art. As acknowledged by the Examiner, the prior art does not teach or suggest the inwardly

projecting, angularly disposed arms of the claimed device, which are of fundamental importance to the attainment of its functional benefits. Moreover, and despite the Examiner's contrary assertion, the book holder of the Lunday patent does not employ endpieces comprised of "finger and lever portions [that] are in the form of a curved strip."

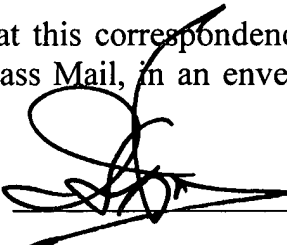
Withdrawal of the rejection, and passage of the application to allowance, are believed to be clearly in order; such actions are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, IRA S. DORMAN, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed as set forth on the first page hereof, on March 1, 2006.

  
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cc: Mr. Stephen A. Craske  
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